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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
11 February 1966

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Dominican Republic Situation Report
(As of 7:00 PM, EST)

1. The impending departure of former Minister of Defense Francisco Rivera Caminero will meet President Garcia Godoy's minimum objective of bringing about a change in the military leadership.



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3. This afternoon's change-of-command ceremony was held without incident. Both the outgoing and incoming Ministers of Defense were in a good mood and no bitterness was evident in the military.

4. The next few hours will be crucial in determining the reaction of the former "constitutionalist" camp to these developments. Juan Bosch, the strike organizing committee, and two of the three Communist parties publicly have committed themselves to continue the successful walkout until all of the service chiefs named in the president's 6 January expulsion decree have been removed. This could be a bargaining position, designed to permit the strike leaders to represent Rivera's departure as the outcome of their efforts of the past three days, while permitting them to call off the strike "for the good of the country."

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On the other hand, popular support for the strike and Rivera's sudden departure may cause the former "constitutionalists" to believe that they have virtually achieved the departure of all the military chiefs. Garcia Godoy, with the support of a majority of his cabinet, is known to regard the removal of all the chiefs as the best solution to the current crisis.

5. Nevertheless, late this afternoon, he announced that two of the three chiefs will remain in their posts. His failure to mention Army Chief Martinez Arana could be an oversight - more probably it indicated that the president hopes to replace Martinez, as he had planned last month. If this is his objective, with pressure from the left, he probably can arrange a situation in which Martinez would violate the "completely obedient" stipulation in today's letter to Rivera.

6. The strike, called in the wake of the 9 February rioting, has been successful in Santo Domingo. Most government ministries closed; the remainder operated with greatly reduced staffs. International and domestic airlines ceased operations. Scattered shooting and civil disturbances were reported. Outside the capital, demonstrations were few and the strike was barely noticeable. Over the weekend, further demonstrations are probable and violence possible.

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